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Vidal Martinez Named New Superintendent of Prince William Forest Park

Washington, D.C. – National Park Service (NPS) National Capital Region Director Peggy O'Dell announces the selection of Vidal Martinez as the new superintendent of Prince William Forest Park, located 35 miles south of Washington, D.C. Martinez begins his new assignment October 26th and replaces former Superintendent Bob Hickman, who retired.

"I am thrilled and pleased to announce Vidal Martinez's appointment as Superintendent of Prince William Forest Park," said O'Dell. "Vidal's experience includes three previous Superintendent positions, along with much experience working with partner organizations, which requires significant collaboration skills. The National Park Service and specifically Prince William Forest Park will be best served with Vidal's selection."

Martinez most recently served as superintendent of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, which is a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. That park conserves, protects, and interprets 56,000 acres of land bordering the Upper Delaware River in the 74- mile long corridor. The area is managed cooperatively with local governments through the Upper Delaware Council and other partner organizations, with over 85% of the area privately owned.

Prior to taking the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River position, Martinez served as superintendent at two NPS sites, the George Washington Birthplace National Monument near Colonial Beach, VA and the Thomas Stone National Historic Site in Port Tobacco, MD, a site which commemorates one of Maryland's four signers of the Declaration of Independence.

While at George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Martinez worked to establish a new visitor center and helped develop an international "sister" park relationship between the George Washington Birthplace and Sulgrave Manor, Washington's ancestral home in England.

"Prince William Forest Park offers the visiting public the opportunity to learn about how President Roosevelt's plan for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) ultimately led to the creation of this park, its unique history and a wide variety of outdoor recreational activities," Martinez said. "I'm looking forward to work with the staff and park partners, and given that my father served in the New York CCC, I'm very impressed with the facilities and resources associated with this story."

Martinez brings 34 years of federal service to this new assignment. From 1990 to 2000, Martinez managed Sagamore Hill National Historic Site in Oyster Bay, NY, the home of President

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Theodore Roosevelt. Martinez began his NPS career at General Grant National Memorial (Grant's Tomb) in New York, and had assignments in visitor protection, resource management and outdoor recreation planning at Petersburg National Battlefield in Virginia. Martinez also served with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at sites in Maryland and Virginia.

Martinez holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation, from Herbert H. Lehman College (City University of New York) and a Master of Science degree in Recreation Planning and Education from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1989.

A native New Yorker, Martinez enjoys spending time with his wife, children and three grandchildren. Martinez plans to take advantage of the recreational opportunities at the park by engaging in camping and hiking with his children and grandchildren.

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